

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE PLATFORM

Summary of Party's Accomplishments and Statement of Its Position On All Public Questions

Following is the platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention. It was reported by Senator James A. Reed, chairman, read by Frank H. Farris of the Committee on Resolutions, and adopted by the convention without discussion and without a dissenting vote:

The Democratic party in Missouri, in convention assembled, congratulates the State and Nation that at this tragic period of the world's history we have at the head of the government a President who has met all international complications in a spirit of dignity, firmness and fairness, which has compelled the recognition of our rights as a great neutral power and at the same time retained the respect and friendship of all the world. The nation's honor and the nation's peace have been preserved by Woodrow Wilson.

We reaffirm our allegiance to the principles of Democracy and ratify and affirm the platform of our national convention.

We challenge attention to the great record of the Democratic Congress. It exposed the organized lobby, which had for years infested the nation's capital. That lobby was headed by the hired agents of an organization, misnamed "The National Manufacturers' Association." It had for years been instrumental in preventing all legislation calculated to ameliorate the conditions of labor. It habitually sent its hired employees into various congressional districts to defeat congressmen who had sought to pass remedial legislation. It regularly spent vast sums of money in endeavoring to promote the political interests of its servants in Congress. It spied upon committees and corrupted subordinate governmental employees. The Democratic party drove it from the capital and compelled its dissolution.

The Democratic party, always mindful of the welfare of the farmer, and recognizing that he has been victim of unjust interest exactions by farm loan companies, has, by enlarging the powers of national banks, created an immediate competitive market for farm mortgages and cattle paper.

It is now organizing a great system of land banks which will enable farmers to procure long-time loans at from 4 to 12 per cent interest, without the payment of commission charges, and which makes the borrower a participant in the profits of the land bank, through which he negotiates his loans; this national system will co-operate with the State rural credit system in the same manner as State banks do with national banks.

It places agricultural implements and many other articles especially used by the farmers upon the free list.

It increased the appropriation for the agricultural departments by 50 per cent, and has extended the powers of that great department so as to work incalculable advantages to the agricultural class.

It appropriated \$4,500,000 to promptly exterminate the foot and mouth disease.

It created a division of markets and rural organizations to study and disseminate information of special value to the farmers.

It created a live stock market and a live stock news service.

It passed the grain standard act, which insures uniformity in grain grades.

It passed the warehouse bill, which facilitates the storage of grain by the farmers, and the procurement of money on warehouse receipts.

It passed the agricultural extension act, which will place two expert farm demonstrators in each county of the United States and backed it by an appropriation of \$8,600,000.

It took the initial step toward the promotion of a great system of national good roads by appropriating \$80,000,000 to be expended in co-operation with the States, thus insuring the expenditure of \$160,000,000 and the ultimate creation of a general good roads system, which will benefit every farmer in the United States.

The Republican party fastened upon the country an unsound banking and currency system, which concentrated the financial power in New York, and which has at frequently recurring intervals involved the country in panics.

The Democratic party abolished panics by establishing a sound currency and banking system; it transferred the seat of financial authority from Wall Street to Government control in Washington.

This great system has withstood the strain of a world war, and has made possible that prosperity which the country now enjoys.

We call special attention to legislation for the relief of the wrongs suffered by labor. For over 30 years labor, without avail, knocked at the door of Republican Congresses, praying for relief against unjust laws and conditions. Their requests were not only disregarded, but often impudently rejected.

The Democratic party abolished government by injunction.

It exempted labor and farm organizations from the terms of the Sherman anti-trust act and gave them statutory recognition.

It guaranteed trial by jury and the right to bail and appeal in contempt cases.

By the passage of the seaman's law, it abolished involuntary servitude in the merchant marine.

It created a Board of Railway Mediation and Arbitration, which has settled every railroad dispute up to the present time.

It enacted an eight-hour law for the protection of women and child workers of the District of Columbia.

It extended the eight-hour law to cover employees in the Alaska coal fields and those engaged in the construction of the Alaska railroad.

It provided for industrial education. It abolished the Taylor stop-watch speeding-up methods the Republicans had established in the United States navy yards and gun factories.

It provided for the construction of battleships in government navy yards. It investigated and exposed the intolerable labor conditions of West Virginia and Michigan mines.

It enacted the compensation law for postoffice employees injured in the service.

It has just passed the workmen's compensation law, applicable to all government employees.

It established a children's bureau to study the conditions of child life and the origin and prevention of child diseases.

It prohibited the shipment of factory products of child labor in interstate commerce.

It abolished many other abuses against which labor justly complained.

Missouri has always occupied a proud and foremost position in the Senate of the United States. In the early days of the Republic, Benton was admittedly the peer of Clay, Calhoun and Webster, and later came Blair, Schurz, Vest and Cockrell. Our present Senators, Wm. J. Stone and James A. Reed, measure fully to the high stature of their predecessors.

As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Stone has been the adviser and the support of the President, and second only to him as a force for the preservation of the dignity and peace of the nation.

In his one term of service, Senator James A. Reed has placed himself in the front rank of the Senate. In the framing of the Federal banking bill, his work was that of a constructive statesman, and many of the most salutary provisions of that law are due to his foresight and wisdom. The committee, of which he was the leading spirit, exposed and drove from Washington the corrupt lobby. His work in both these great matters was such as to bring from President Wilson words of praise and thanks. In the halls of the Senate the voice of Senator Reed is always raised in behalf of the principles of Democracy. He is recognized as the ablest debater in the great forum of the Senate. His return to the Senate is a national need.

The Missouri congressional delegation is one of the ablest at Washington. In all important legislation it has taken a leading part. The splendid personnel of our nominees is a guaranty that the State will continue to be represented by true and faithful exponents of the rights of the people.

Missouri is proud of Speaker Champ Clark. The foremost contender for the presidential nomination in 1912, he accepted his defeat with grace and courage and since has given to President Wilson a support so sincere and strong as to win the love and admiration of the whole American people.

The Democratic party presents to the State a ticket composed of men of the highest character, experienced in important affairs and of proven integrity. At its head is Hon. Frederick D. Gardner, who has already demonstrated his keen interest in the farming and industrial classes, and his ability as a constructive statesman, by originating and forcefully advocating a system of rural credits for our State that will result in lessening the interest burden to farmers, and which can be administered in co-operation with the national rural credits system now being established.

We heartily recommend the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment No. 2, known as the Missouri State Land Bank Amendment.

We commend the work of the Democratic General Assemblies of the State in the enactment of laws for the better government of the State and the protection of the rights and liberties of its citizens, and call attention to the fact that no State has enacted more constructive legislation of direct benefit to the people than has been enacted by Missouri Democratic Legislatures.

No sensible man would fire a cork for attending to her business. Why fire a Congressman for attending to his?

Is the Nation Ready

The great question raised by the strike negotiations at Washington is not whether the railroads ought to grant the eight-hour day or not, or whether arbitration of all matters at issue by a competent tribunal ought to be assented to; it is whether the American people will take measures to put an end to a state of things under which the life, health and business prosperity of the whole nation are left at the mercy of informal conferences at which the representatives of the people have no authority whatever and not even a right to be present except by courtesy of the contending parties.

We, the people, who have chartered the railroads, granted them the right—a governmental one—of eminent domain, furnished the capital to build them and paid both the wages of the employees who live by the road's prosperity and the profits on the capital investment, are strangers and outsiders when roads and labor organizations fall out, and sit helpless when their misunderstandings threaten to cut off milk and food from our towns and cities, fuel and raw material from our factories and the labor supply from our harvest fields, to halt the mother on her way to the bedside of her stricken child, the invalid in search of health and strength, the laborer on the road to his work and the seeker for knowledge on his way to school.

The only way to keep a Democracy healthy is to keep its several elements in position to assert and enforce their rights. The attitude that sends a citizen to sufferance that which he should claim as a right threatens the very foundation of free government.

We, the general public, are in this attitude with respect to both the railway managers and railway employees. We have, in the past, enforced none of our rights with respect to the preservation of industrial peace. Our constitution and our statute books contain scarce an intimation of a consciousness that such rights exist. Even such elementary facts as that modern transportation and modern industry are built up, not on the exercise of the natural rights of man, but on privileges granted by charter under special conditions; that the success of managers and the prosperity of wage earners are not the mere result of individual enterprise on the one hand and industry and thrift on the other, but consequences of special privileges and immunities granted to corporations by the State—even such elementary facts as these sound strange in the ears of the average capitalist, the average workman.

This is not the fault either of managers or workers. In a democracy each man defends his own rights; and managers and wage earners have each been keen enough about theirs. It is the fault of the blind, indolent general public, which has lacked the energy of thought and will to study, assert and enforce its rights with respect to industrial peace and continuity, and has preferred to wait until workmen were locked out or strikes paralyzed industry, and then to beg and plead with either managers of capital or leaders of labor—according to which happen to be "the upper dog"—to remember a public that had forgotten itself.

This is no time to worry about "precedents." When we begin at the bottom—for the American people is capable of such fundamental, constructive political tasks—to train our citizens to know their rights and construct the machinery necessary to enforce them, we shall in those very activities sweep away all the "precedents" which we have formed by dodging our duties and responsibilities and permitting well-doing employers to be ruined by "sympathetic" strikes, and well-doing workmen's families to be starved by lockouts, thus training both sides to rely on force and to despise justice for us as we have despised it for them.

This is the constructive task of the hour. We must not shrink it. We shall never accomplish it by patching up; we must begin at the bottom. And we cannot do justice to manager and workmen except by beginning with the assertion, by proper and adequate laws of the public's own rights. Are we ready to begin now?—The St. Louis Republic.

PROMINENT ST. LOUIS PROGRESSIVE SURRENDERS

Scores of Republicans and Progressives are dropping into the State Democratic Headquarters daily and offering their services to the committee in bringing about the triumphant reelection of President Wilson and putting Colonel Gardner into the executive chair of the State by an overwhelming majority.

Notable among the callers, last Thursday, was Percy Stone, a leading St. Louis business man, who, until 1912, was one of the most active Republicans in St. Louis. He espoused the cause of Colonel Roosevelt when the party split, and was one of the founders of the Progressive party in Missouri, being made a member of the State Committee.

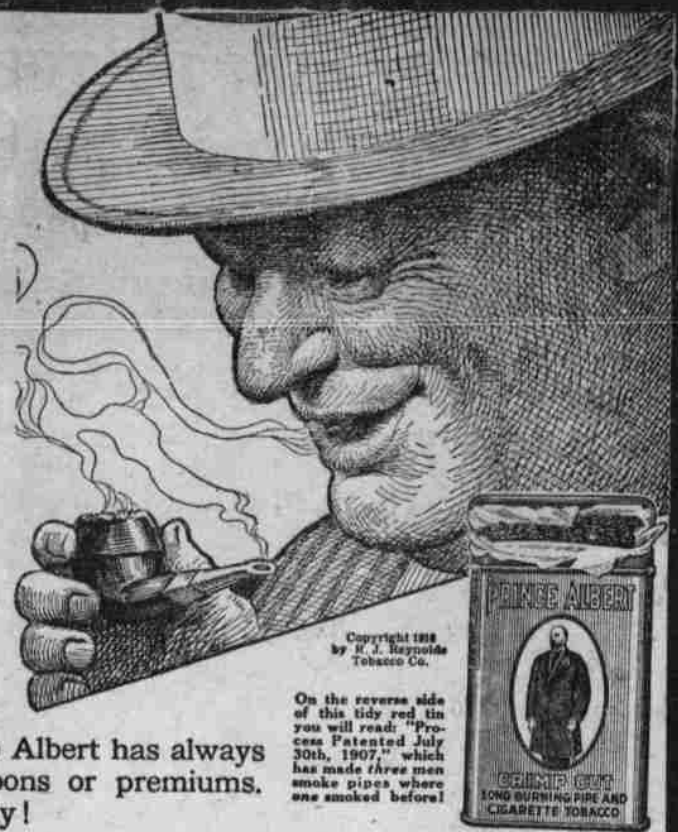
"I am here to surrender," said Mr. Stone. "Not half way, but all the way, for I shall do all in my power for the success of both the Democratic National and State tickets. I cannot understand how any Progressive who was actuated by principle when he left the Republican party can vote for Judge Hughes or endorse the Republican platform of 1916. I shall vote for President Wilson as I believe every lover of this country should do. He has stood the acid test. Colonel Gardner shall have my earnest support. He is a business man and will give Missouri a business administration."

The report from the Hughes trip across the continent are all to the effect that he is making an unfavorable impression on the country. The people are getting tired of a continuous scold, scold, scold, and they just laugh when he makes a fierce attack on the President. The country will give Mr. Hughes the "laugh" in November.

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"Makes Hunting Jacket of Robe"

Hon. John H. Atwood of Kansas City, who delivered the keynote speech at the State Democratic Convention at Jefferson City last week, denounced "Squire" Hughes for playing politics from the bench of the United States Supreme Court.

His speech, in part, follows: "The American people have been sobered to the point of absolute apathy by the nightmare war across the sea. And our people send diurnal thanks to the throne of grace that our nation's leader has trodden the middle path of moderation, where wisdom is, and kept from our lips the crimson chalice of bloody war."

"And who is set over against us in this great conflict? At the head of the Republican hosts is Mr. Hughes, whose progressivism is so colored by his Republicanism as to produce a politically chromatic result that might well cause the earnest seeker for truth to cry out 'What is he?'"

"A most heterogeneous flock of storks flapped wings at the political hatching of this Republican nominee; Roosevelt was there, and close beside him Taft; the Roosevelt who so lambasted the ex-President that his fair and rotund person still shows many pained suggesting cicatrices—scar tissue that will not disappear; Roosevelt, the defender of his faith, whatever it may chance to be, at the time—him of Armageddon—he, I say, was there, and snuggled close beside was Penrose and Murray Crane and Mr. Barnes of New York; and the International Harvester Trust was there; and the Steel Trust, too, so that the corporate coramant and the big business buzzard struggled for a place on the rim of the Republican nest, each admitting his paternal responsibility for the national event. In the light of his paternal uncertainty and the halting of this candidate between progress and reaction, might not a student of 'Who's Who in America' arise and with propriety inquire 'Whose Hughes in this nominee anyway?'"

"And how deals this magician—this wise man from the East, with the nation's situation? He reads the rural credits law and the child-labor law and says: 'Democracy is ever opposed to progress'; he passes up the reserve bank in silence, but takes time to prove that a clerk in New York Customs House was reduced in rank. He ignores with judicial calm the trades commission act and demonstrates that in the Agricultural Department at Washington someone's assistant secretary's clerk was asked to resign."

"He points to a diplomacy that swelled our exports to the billions and says that we should be firmer. His attention being directed to the strong pulse of business, freight trains too huge for even mighty locomotives, the chorus in the metal mills, the bursting barns, the upward bounding prices, production's activity, consumption's widening maw, no failures, prosperity everywhere—and says we must change all this by heating Wilson."

"He says: 'Wilson is wrong.' Where, in wrong? Would you, Mr. Hughes, have gone to war with Germany over the Lusitania? Would you have gone to war with Mexico over a ranch raid or a bandit killing or for an oil concession? Would you repeal the reserve bank law and place the finances of the country in thrall to Wall Street again?"

"Will you, if elected President, oppose the child-labor act and make those babies' little legs bear their at-

tenanted bodies from schoolroom and playground to spindle and loom? Will you diminish the chances of the farmer's loan and increase his rate of interest by repealing the rural credits bill? Will you give big business a roving commission and issue to it letters of marque by repealing the trades commission law?"

"Will you duplicate the trenches of Flanders and Poland on the Mexican border, either north or south of the Rio Grande? Will you, if President, fill American hospitals with the blind and armless and legless and with gas-torn lungs, that in the European hospitals tell of the devil's deeds on the Marne and on the Somme?"

But whatever Mr. Hughes may say in response to those questions, he can truthfully boast of being the only man in the country's history who successfully stalked political big game in a hunting shirt made from a judicial robe—the only man who successfully has used, as a duck-hunter's blind, the Supreme Bench of the United States from which to bag a presidential nomination. But it will be to no purpose, because for once the American people are possessed of a keen appreciation of noble work done in their behalf."

Are You Looking Old?

Old age comes quick enough without inviting it. Some look old at forty. That is because they neglect the liver and bowels. Keep your bowels regular and your liver healthy and you will not only feel younger but look younger. When troubled with constipation or biliousness take Chamberlain's Tablets. They are intended especially for these ailments and are excellent. Easy to take and most agreeable in effect. Obtainable everywhere. (adv.)

Campaign Contributions

The Farmington Times is authorized to accept and receipt for contributions to the State Democratic Campaign Fund. Anyone who feels like contributing anything to this worthy cause should send or bring in their contributions.

This paper will also publish, from week to week, a complete list of the contributors to such fund. Should you not wish your name published, then we will credit it to "Cash", or any other way you can suggest.

The work that the Democratic party will perform in this State, between now and November election, will be no child's play. A strenuous fight will be waged throughout the State, and such campaigns mean that someone must "kick in" some money.

LET US HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

The sooner the better!

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Government Armor Plant

and what people are thinking about it"

as reflected in Editorial Comment

This is the title of a booklet we have prepared. We shall be glad to send a copy free to any one interested.

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